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Message Text

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11
ORIGIN AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 DODE-00 IGA-02 ACDA-05 AID-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00

L-03 EUR-12 /068 R

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R 280048Z JAN 76
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO ALL AFRICAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 020621

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: MILI PFOR XA

SUBJECT:REGIONAL ARMS RESTRAINTS STUDY

REFERENCE: CFR NUMBER 3, JANUARY 21.

1. THE REFERENCED CFR REPORTS THE SECRETARY'S REQUEST THAT WE DO A STUDY OF POSSIBILITIES FOR RESTRAINTS IN TRANSFERS OF CONVENTIONAL ARMS ON A REGION-BY-REGION BASIS. SINCE MOST ARMS IN AFRICA COME FROM COUNTRIES OUTSIDE THE CONTINENT, WE NEED TO FOCUS ON ANY POSSIBLE RESTRAINTS WHICH ARE OR MIGHT BE EXERCISED BY INDIVIDUAL AFRICAN COUNTRIES, OR BY TWO OR MORE COUNTRIES BY MUTUAL AGREEMENT. IF POSSIBLE, YOUR COMMENTS SHOULD REACH US BY FEBRUARY 2 AND SHOULD BE BASED ON YOUR VIEWS, WITHOUT CONSULTING HOST GOVERNMENT.

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2. SUCH RESTRAINTS COULD BE EITHER QUANTITATIVE OR

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QUALITATIVE. ONE OR MORE AFRICAN COUNTRIES MAY DECIDE FOR BUDGETARY OR OTHER REASONS THAT THEY DO NOT WISH TO HAVE TOO LARGE AN INVENTORY OF WEAPONS. MOREOVER, BECAUSE OF THE HIGH COST AND DIFFICULTIES IN OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF MORE SOPHISTICATED WEAPONS, SOME AFRICAN COUNTRIES MAY HAVE CHOSEN NOT TO OBTAIN THESE WEAPONS.

BUT IF BUDGETARY RESTRAINTS WERE REMOVED, OR IF THE ARMS WERE FREE, WOULD YOUR HOST GOVERNMENT MOVE TO ACQUIRE EVEN HIGHLY SOPHISTICATED WEAPONS, E.G., SUPERSONIC JETS, VARIOUS TYPES OF MISSILES, MODERN TANKS, ETC?

3. DO YOU SEE ANY POSSIBLE ROLE FOR THE U.S.G. IN PROVIDING INCENTIVES TO AFRICAN COUNTRIES WHICH WISH TO EXERCISE RESTRAINT? WHAT INCENTIVES MIGHT BE THE MOST EFFECTIVE WITH YOUR HOST GOVERNMENT? POLITICAL AND SECURITY GUARANTEES? ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE? OR WHAT?

4. USING THE RESPONSES FROM THE POSTS, THE STUDY WILL POINT OUT BOTH THE ARMS RESTRAINTS ARRANGEMENTS WHICH MAY BE POSSIBLE AND THE OBSTACLES TO SUCH ARRANGEMENTS.

5. FOR ADDIS ABABA: CAN YOU GIVE US AN ANALYSIS OF ANY ROLE WHICH THE OAU MIGHT PLAY IN ARMS LIMITATIONS PROGRAMS? ARE THERE ANY POSSIBILITIES FOR AN AFRICA-WIDE AGREEMENT? REGIONAL AGREEMENTS? AGREEMENTS BETWEEN PAIRS OF COUNTRIES.

6. FYI. THE EUR BUREAU WILL ANALYZE POSSIBILITIES FOR RESTRAINTS ON THE PART OF THE MAJOR SUPPLIER COUNTRIES, AND ATTITUDES TOWARDS A SUPPLIER AGREEMENT, OR AN AGREEMENT COVERING BOTH SUPPLIERS AND RECIPIENTS. KISSINGER

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